

**FILED**

NOV 01 2017

Clerk, U.S. District Court  
District Of Montana  
Missoula

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
MISSOULA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOSEPH MICHAEL VILLARREAL,

Defendant.

CR-17-15-M-DLC

FINDINGS AND  
RECOMMENDATION  
CONCERNING PLEA

The Defendant, by consent, has appeared before me under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11 and has entered a plea of guilty to one count of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Count VII), as set forth in the Indictment. In exchange for Defendant's plea, the United States has agreed to dismiss Counts I through VI and VIII through X of the Indictment, as well as the forfeiture allegation.

After examining the Defendant under oath, I have made the following

determinations:

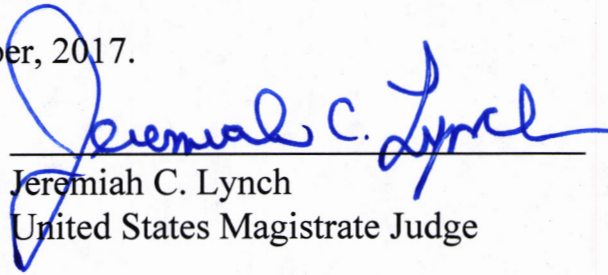
1. That the Defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed and voluntary plea,
2. That the Defendant is aware of the nature of the charge against him and consequences of pleading guilty to the charge,
3. That the Defendant fully understands his constitutional rights, and the extent to which he is waiving those rights by pleading guilty, and
4. That the plea of guilty is a knowing and voluntary plea, supported by an independent basis in fact sufficient to prove each of the essential elements of the offense charged.

The Court further concludes that the Defendant had adequate time to review the Plea Agreement with counsel, that he fully understands each and every provision of the agreement and that all of the statements in the Plea Agreement are true. Therefore, I recommend that the Defendant be adjudged guilty of Count VII of the Indictment, and that sentence be imposed. I further recommend that Counts I through VI and VIII through X of the Indictment be dismissed, as well as the forfeiture allegation.

**This report is forwarded with the recommendation that the Court defer a decision regarding acceptance until the Court has reviewed the Plea**

**Agreement and the presentence report.**

DATED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2017.



---

Jeremiah C. Lynch  
United States Magistrate Judge